

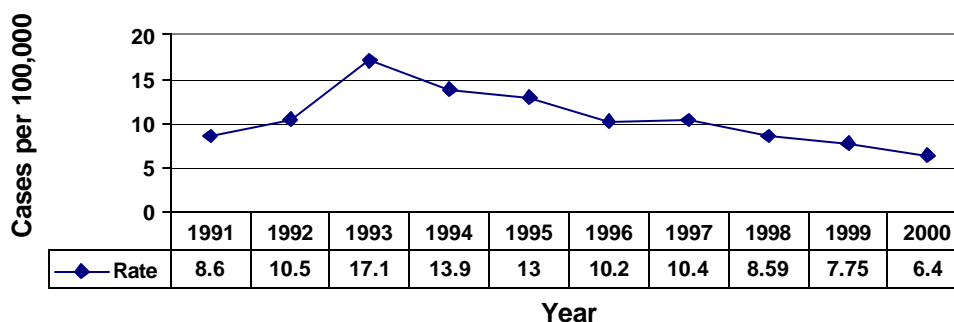
SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a contagious sexually transmitted disease caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum*. The disease, which may be acute or chronic, is characterized clinically by a primary lesion (hard chancre), a secondary eruption involving skin and mucous membranes, long periods of latency, and late lesions of skin, bone, viscera, the central nervous system, and the cardiovascular system. Fetal infection occurs with high frequency in untreated early infections of pregnant women. Transmission occurs by direct contact with infectious exudates during sexual contact. Transmission may occur through blood transfusion if the donor is in the early stages of the disease. Fetal infection occurs through placental transfer or at delivery.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Laboratory confirmation of *T.pallidum* by darkfield microscopy, by reactive serology, or by clinical manifestations of acquired infection.

**Syphilis Incidence, Kentucky
1991-2000**



Incidence in Kentucky

2000

Number of Cases

253

Rate per 100,000

6.4

Rate by Gender

Female

5.9

Male

6.9

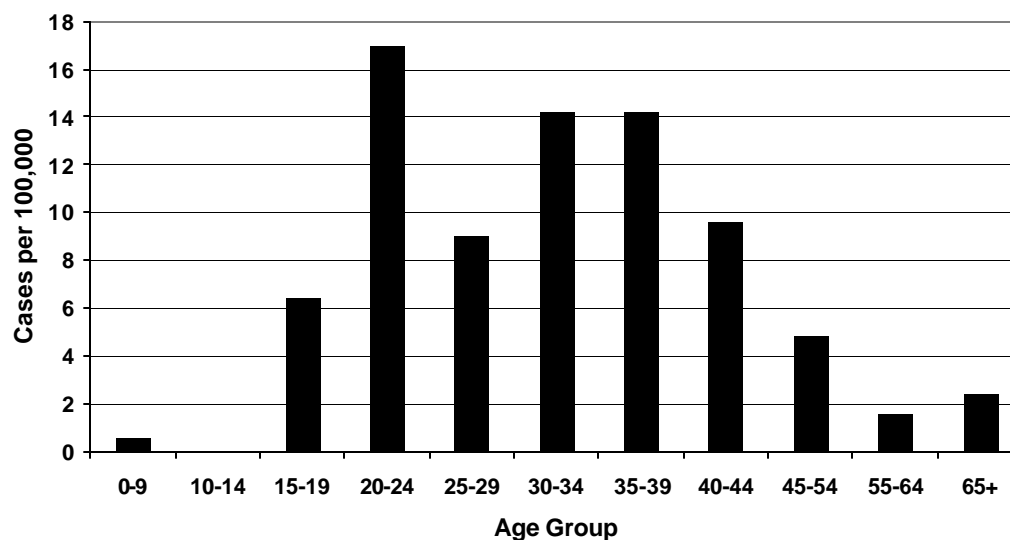
Rate* by Race	per 100,000
Asian	6.7
African-American	58.4
Hispanic	30.0
White	1.5

* Rate for this calculation based on the 2000 population numbers. Race was unknown for 5 cases.

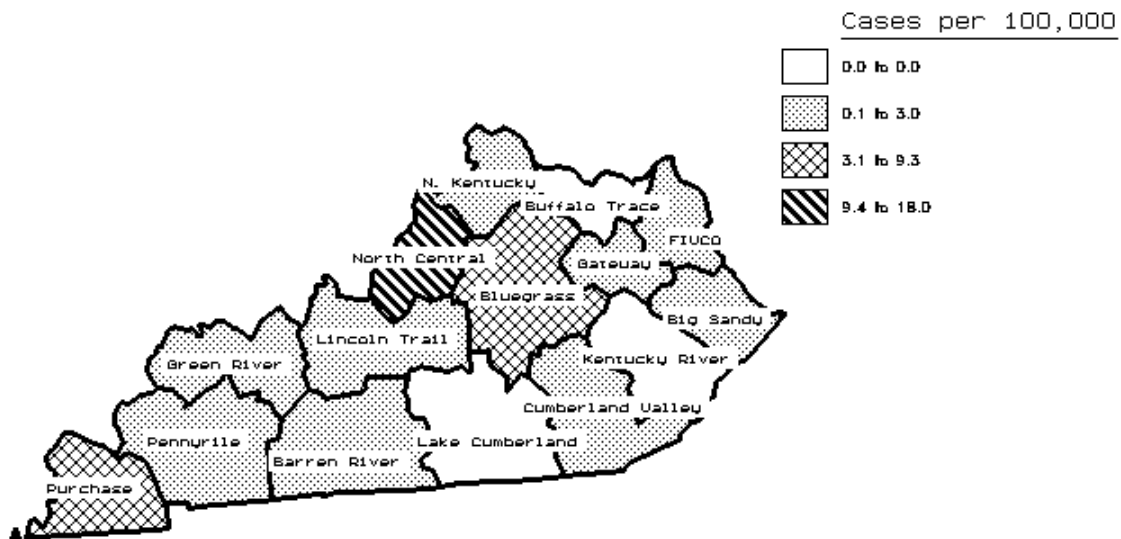
Syphilis is defined by distinct stages. Primary, secondary and early latent syphilis are considered early syphilis, while late latent and late syphilis are defined as syphilis of greater than one year's duration. Congenital syphilis is acquired in utero.

Cases	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Primary	132	57	65	55	44	41	34	36
Secondary	199	150	120	99	91	65	67	49
Early Latent	156	179	166	126	122	101	81	62
Total Early	487	386	351	280	257	207	182	147
Late Latent/late	153	134	141	113	141	127	120	103
Congenital	9	13	8	2	6	4	3	3
Total Cases	649	533	500	395	404	338	305	253

Syphilis, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky 2000



Syphilis by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence 2000



The North Central District reported the highest rate of 18.0 cases per 100,000 and the Bluegrass District followed with 9.3 cases per 100,000.

Jefferson County, in the North Central District, has the largest urban population in the state. In 2000 Jefferson County reported 22.0 cases per 100,000, a decrease from the previous two years.

Fayette County, the second largest urban area in the state, is in the Bluegrass District. Fayette County reported 22.6 cases per 100,000, an increase over the previous two years.